

Seed grower appreciates the resilience to strong winds of SRI-grown rice

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The following photos were taken 2013 from the rice fields of seed grower Felix Sarte of the municipality of Limay, in Bataan Province.



The field on the left is the SRI field, and the field on the right is the conventional field.



A few days earlier, although there was no typhoon, strong winds had hit the area. In many fields, including Sarte's, many rice plants lodged as result. But the SRI-grown plants remained standing, showing practically no damage.



This resilience of SRI-grown plants comes from the thick and deep roots that rice plants develop when they go through a series of wet-dry spells (also called intermittent irrigation, or alternate wetting and drying). During the dry spells, the plants send out more roots to search for water. As the upper part of the soil dries, and the water level goes down, the roots grow towards the water. Thus, they go deeper.

With thick and deep roots, the rice plants withstand strong winds, flood water and typhoons better. They can also survive droughts longer, because they can find more moisture in deeper soil.

This makes SRI a great adaptation measure for coping with extreme weather events and other climate change impacts. ###